

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of laser deposition using a laser and deposition wire, the method characterised in that the original wire is heated and cross-sectionally reconfigured to increase the lateral dimension of the presented wire for greater overlap with a presented beam from the laser which melts the wire for deposition.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wire is reconfigured to an oval or rectangle or dumbbell or semi-circle or serrated top cross-section.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the heating is provided by induction.
5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least a presented surface of the wire is knurled or otherwise roughened to reduce reflectivity of the presented beam.
- 6.-10. (Canceled)
11. (New) A method of laser deposition using a laser and deposition wire, the method characterised in that the original wire is heated and cross-sectionally reconfigured to increase the lateral dimension of the presented wire for greater overlap with a presented beam from the laser which melts the wire for deposition, wherein the wire comprises a deposition powder core held within a retaining sheath.
12. (New) A method of laser deposition using a laser and deposition wire, the method characterised in that the original wire is heated and cross-sectionally reconfigured to increase the lateral dimension of the presented wire for greater overlap with a presented beam from the laser which melts the wire for deposition, wherein at least a presented surface of the

wire is knurled or otherwise roughened to reduce reflectivity of the presented beam, and wherein the knurling or roughening of the wire is conducted prior to reconfiguration.